

[Ophelia Jemison]

390363 Folklore coll.

Project #-1655

Cassels R. Tiedeman

Charleston, S. C.

Approx. 315 words

Folklore

OPHELIA [JEMISON?]

Ophelia Jamison Jemison , born three years after freedom, is a typical Negress of the emotional type, possessing many of the characteristics of her African ancestors. In expressing her religious feelings she becomes most dramatic and when, as she is fond of doing, she tells a Bible story, she enacts the part of the main character of the story, really losing her identity.

When asked where Heaven is, she replied: "De Hebben to dis world is up yander, (a wave of the arm) but dat odder world dat pass obber befo' we was yet made, de fust world, was awful wicked. De people serbe (serve) no God, but Nora, (Noah) he a good man an' God told 'im to build de aak (ark), an' he mus' let two ob ebery t'ing libing go in dere wid 'im, den dat world was swallow up wid watuh. After dat is when our world come.

De laws was made den an' no man git to Hebben cep (except)/ tru de Lord. All should hab a right to de tree ob life. His gate an' do' (door) stan' open ebery day for any soul to come in ef he want to.

Library of Congress

I got one ob dem old time Bibles what been made befo' Lazarus an' Divies come. Lazarus is de man what went to de gate ob de bery rich man an' climb de steps up to de do' (door) an' dere on he knees look up in de room an' see all dem rich people eat an' eat an' de mens toting waiters on dey head piled up wid chicken an' t'ings, an' poor sick Lazarus dere on he knee jes beg for de crumbs, an' what do you t'ink dey done? Send fo (four) big hound 2 dogs to et 'im up. But dey was his friends an' lick he wounds, an' where he today? He in Hebben, - an' where dey? Dey in Hell.

Source: Ophelia Jamison, Addison Court, Charleston, S. C.